

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MOSCOW 02984 061105Z

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E.O. 11652 N/A

TAGS: OVIP

SUBJECT: TRAVEL OF ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE MAURY

REF: A. SECDEF 9366 DTG 041340Z MAR 75

1. I AM DELIGHTED THAT ASSISTANT SECRETARY MAURY PLANS TO VISIT THE USSR AND WOULD LIKE TO DO EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO INSURE A PRODUCTIVE TRIP FOR HIM. HOWEVER, GIVEN FACT THAT SENATORIAL VISIT BEING SPONSORED BY SUPREME SOVIET, I FEEL IT SHOULD BE POINTED OUT THAT HIS INCLUSION ON BOARD THE SENATORIAL PLANE MIGHT INTRODUCE CERTAIN AWKWARDNESS IN HANDLING SENATORIAL VISIT ITSELF. SOVIETS ARE EXTREMELY PROTOCOL-CONSCIOUS AND SOVIET BUREAUCRACY CAN ON OCCASION MOVE AGONIZINGLY SLOWLY. HAVING HIGH-RANKING DEFENSE DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL WHO IS NOT PART OF OFFICIAL DELEGATION ON PLANE COULD RESULT IN COMPLICATING ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS.

2. TO THE BEST OF OUR MEMORY ASSISTANT SECRETARY MAURY WILL BE HIGHEST LEVEL DOD OFFICIAL TO VISIT THE USSR IN NEARLY TWO DECADES. GIVEN ALMOST CERTAIN INTENSE INTEREST OF LOCAL AMERICAN PRESS REPRESENTATIVES IN SENATORIAL VISIT, IT IS UNLIKELY THAT ASSISTANT SECRETARY MAURY'S PRESENCE IN THE SOVIET UNION AT THAT TIME COULD BE HANDLED IN THE LOW-KEY MANNER WHICH HE EVIDENTLY DESIRES. THIS COULD GIVE RISE TO PRESS SPECULATION REGARDING HIS VISIT.

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PAGE 02 MOSCOW 02984 061105Z

3. I WOULD SUGGEST, THEREFORE, THAT CONSIDERATION BE GIVEN TO

THESE FACTORS IN WEIGHING DECISION ON ASSISTANT SECRETARY MAURY'S VISIT WITH SENATORIAL GROUP. IF FOLLOWING REVIEW, DETERMINATION IS MADE THAT HE AND MRS. MAURY SHOULD COME, WE WILL BE HAPPY TO ASSIST IN ARRANGING SEPARATE PROGRAM. ASSISTANT NAVAL ATTACHE WILL BE AVAILABLE TO ACCOMPANY THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY ON TRIP TO LENINGRAD AND OTHER ADJACENT CITIES. DEFENSE ATTACHE ADMIRAL MAYO WISHES TO INVITE ASSISTANT SECRETARY AND MRS. MAURY TO STAY WITH HIM IN MOSCOW.

4. PLEASE ADVISE.
STOESSEL

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